

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 and new Claims 12-14 remain active in the case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The present invention relates to carbodiimides containing carboxyl or carboxylate groups.

Claim Rejection, 35 USC 112

Claims 1-11 have been amended as the Examiner has suggested by deleting the phrase "if desired" in favor of the term "optionally." It is therefore believed that the ground of rejection that has been raised is obviated and withdrawal of the same is respectfully requested.

Claim Amendments

The language of the claims has been improved upon in several of the claims. Further, new Claims 12-14 have been added, support for which can be found on page 2 of the text. Entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

Specification Amendments

The specification has been amended to insert appropriate headings therein. Entry of these headings is respectfully requested.

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Reply to Office Action of October 2, 2003.

It is now believed that the application is in proper condition for allowance. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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